

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3, 6 and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A stopper for a tube-shaped container, comprising an inserting section, ~~and a closing section, and an operating section,~~ wherein the inserting section is configured to be fitted into the container, ~~and wherein the closing section includes a flat surface that is configured to close an opening of the container, and wherein an annular groove is provided between the operating section and the closing section such that the operating section can be easily grasped,~~

the inserting section being formed of an elastically-deformable liquid-tight member and comprising a cylindrical body ~~having a constant diameter and~~ ~~a~~ at least two tapered annular flange flanges projected from the cylindrical body such that ~~a periphery-peripheries of the tapered annular flange is flanges are~~ liquid-tightly pressed on an inner surface of the container, each of the flanges having notches.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The stopper according to claim 1, wherein the ~~inserting section includes a plurality of tapered annular flanges which are~~ projected from the cylindrical body of the inserting section at regular intervals along an axis of the cylindrical body.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The stopper according to claim ~~3~~4, wherein the inserting section and the closing section are integrally formed of polypropylene resin.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A stopper for a tube-shaped container comprising:
an inserting section sized to be inserted in the container;
a closing section attached to the inserting section and sized to close the container,
wherein the inserting section and the closing section are integrally formed of an elastically-deformable material; and

an operating section separated from the closing section by a groove that facilitates grasping the operating section.

the inserting section comprising a cylindrical body and at least ~~one~~two tapered annular ~~flange~~flanges extending across a radial width larger than the ~~container cylindrical body~~ such that upon insertion of the inserting section into the container, the tapered annular ~~flange is~~flanges are elastically deformed and ~~is~~are liquid-tightly pressed on an inner surface of the container.